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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

NFAC-1397-80/1
26 February 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution

FROM : National Intelligence Officer for Latin America

SUBJECT : Monthly Warning Assessment: Latin America []

25X1

1. Attached is a copy of the Latin America Warning Assessment based upon our discussion of 20 February 1980. []

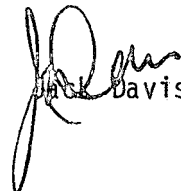
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2. The next warning meeting will be held on 19 March 1980 at 1100 hours in room 5G00 at CIA headquarters. Please call [] by noon on 18 March to give her the name of the individual participating from your office. []

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Jack Davis

Att: (1)



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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

NFAC-1397-80
26 February 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment
National Intelligence Officer for Warning

FROM : National Intelligence Officer for Latin America

SUBJECT : Monthly Warning Assessment: Latin America ☐

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1. Action Requested: None; for your information only. ☐

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2. The meeting of 20 February concentrated on the situation
in El Salvador. ☐

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3. The participants were largely agreed that the outlook for
the present military-civilian junta was very poor. Infusion of US
and other foreign assistance to the junta would not necessarily lead
to greater effectiveness, because of splits on policy goals and tactics
and the worsening economic, political, and security environment. ☐

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4. Most participants judged that the advent of a military
government of the right could come at any time. The short-term
prospects for such a government would depend on the degree of unity
of purpose among military and security force leaders. If there is a
high degree of unity, a crackdown on the forces of the extreme left
might bring a greater measure of order. Over the longer term (a year
or more), such a government would need a political game plan to
supplement its security measures. And it will probably need considerable
external assistance. Even with such assistance, most participants
believed the government would eventually be overwhelmed by forces on
the extreme left. ☐

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5. Most participants hesitated to speculate about the character
and policies of a revolutionary leftist government in El Salvador.
Some participants expressed a belief that there would be a competition
for dominance between Marxist guerrilla leaders and more pragmatic

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revolutionary leaders. A prolonged and bloody civil war was thought likely to increase the chances of Marxist dominance, which were already judged to be high.

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